LORD BROUGHAM AND THE NEW HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT.

Lord Brougham, a few nights since, in moving an humble address to her Majesty praying that she might be graciously pleased to give the necessary directions for preparing accommodation for their lordships in the new Houses of Parliament by the beginning of next session, complained bitterly of the sufferings which the law lords at present had to endure in their morning sittings, sometimes from heat, and sometimes from cold. His lordship also took occasion to say that he *feared* there was a project a-foot for making the new houses not only subservient to legislative purposes but also to pictorial ones; he had heard that the walls were to be decorated with frescos; and that statuary was also to be called in to aid in ornamenting them.

The motion was strongly opposed by the Duke of Wellington, Lord Wharncliffe, and Lord Sudely, the latter nobleman observing that he thought it would be more advisable and safer to wait for another year than to go into a new building before it could be sufficiently dry. Lord Brougham pressed his motion to a division, and it was lost by a majority of 24, there being 16 for and 40 against it.

Correspondence.

FIRE-PROOF ROOFS.

Sir,—Some second and third-rate dwelling-houses now in progress have been covered with fire-proof roofs, constructed of wrought-iron joists and plain tiles in cement, laid to a sufficient fall to carry off the rain. The advantage of this mode of roofing, when compared with that of slates and lead gutters is obvious. It is stronger, more durable, less liable to repairs, more convenient in many situations, for views, &c., more adapted to architectural beauty, and, being *fire-proof* and flat, affords an easy escape from one house to the other. The size of the joists varies according to the width of the houses, but where the frontage is about 19 feet, the iron has been used 4½ inches by 1¾ inches, and placed from centre to centre of party-walls, 4 feet apart, with strutting of smaller-sized iron. The tiled work of three or four courses (executed by competent bricklayers) in fresh cement, well grouted, forms a flat all over, and is finished with a skirting all round the walls, which answers as flashing. It is plain these roofs have an *equal* bearing throughout the walls, without *thrusting* in one direction, or *crushing* in another, as is the case with timber roofs, an illustration of which was given in Vol. II. p. 344. The damage done so readily to slates by sweeps or other persons, and the constant annoyance of repairing, as well as being robbed of lead gutters, &c. are entirely avoided. C.

CAMDEN TOWN NEW CHURCH AND THE NEW HOLLOWAY INDEPENDENT CHAPEL.

Sir,—"One of the competitors" for Camden Town new church, in his letter inserted in your last number, has either omitted, or is ignorant of a glaring peculiarity in the late transactions, viz., that the selected design consisted only of *two drawings*, an exterior and interior perspective view, unaccompanied by geometrical drawings; so that the managing parties must either have shewn themselves unusually sagacious in making up for the necessary defectiveness of the drawings, or, which is more probable, judging by analogy, set to work in the first instance determined to push forward a favourite individual, regardless alike of honour or even justice. Now, Sir, if this be the case, it is really too bad, and seems to be a kind of second edition of the jobbing proceedings of a neighbouring "independent" committee, whose doings were so unmistakably shewn up in your journal some months since, and who, after having had the benefit of discussing some thirty sets of drawings sent in competition, at last selected one of their own number, and are now (after five months' consultation) preparing to carry out a design unwarrantably at variance with the original drawings and estimate;—an example which I am sorry the Camden Town people seem inclined to follow. I am glad to find you purpose keeping your eye upon them:—the persevering efforts of The Builder in the cause of competition deserve the warmest thanks of the profession; and it is hoped they will not be fruitless, but prove to have aided in establishing a system more in accordance with the undoubted rights of integrity and fair dealing.—I am, Sir, &c.,

London, July 29th, 1845. Vigilans.

MOSAIC PAVEMENTS.

Sir,—In the last number of your excellent paper, there is a good account of the above; but no notice is taken of the following, which if you think it useful to your readers, perhaps you can find a spare corner for. There are manufactured at Naples thick glazed tiles, upon which are figured fac-similes of many beautiful patterns, which together form the celebrated mosaic pavements of Pompeii and Herculaneum. For instance, there is the whole pavement which was found in the house of the tragic poet, the dog with *cave canem*; and besides, there are a host of borders of all patterns. As far as I remember, these tiles are very cheap, and their effect is very good; and at a little distance they look better than the originals. The shops in which they are to be bought are situated on the Mole, close to the sea, and I should wish very much to see them introduced into England, as they are well adapted for the floors and sides of halls, baths, dairies, &c.—I am, Sir, &c.,

London, July 23rd, 1845. P. A. T. H.

Miscellanea.

New Churches. — At a meeting of the Society for promoting the enlargement, building, and repairing of Churches and Chapels, held last week, grants were voted towards the erection of new churches at Beggin, near Ashbourne; Tetbury; Moxley, near Wednesbury; Hereford, the parish of St. John the Baptist, *in which there is no church*; Clandown, a district near Bath; Cantley, in the parish of Sedburgh, York; Kingsholm, a district adjoining Gloucester; Pembroke Dock; St. Paul's, a new district in Hull; West-street, Oxford-street, London; and Brighton. Grants were also voted towards the rebuilding of the churches at Eye, near Peterborough; Hinton, near Blandford; Standford near Hythe; St. Thomas, Winchester; Branston, near Coldstream; Ripley, in Surrey; Badderley Ensor, near Atherstone; and towards the enlarging of the following churches, viz., Cilcain, near Mold; Wallingford, St. Leonard's; Hook Norton, near Chipping Norton; Wymerwold, near Loughborough; Shatton, near Swindon; Whitchurch, near Stratford-on-Avon; Upton, near Gloucester; Great Yarmouth, Alford, near Horsham; St. Philip, Birmingham; Crendall, near Farnham; Brightwell, near Woodbridge; and Llancynfelin, near Aberystwith.

Cost of Glass for Horticulture.—Belgian glass is advertised, *in lengths of 40 inches*, at the price of something less than 1½d. per foot, at Antwerp. At that price we ought to buy it, and eventually shall buy it, at home; for the English glass-makers can sell it as cheap as any body if they think proper to do so. Now, the cost of glass at 2d. a foot, to cover a bed 6 feet wide and 100 feet long, *would be just five pounds*, and the squares might be long enough to render all laps unnecessary in a bed which shall be 6 feet wide. The English glass-dealers, in that modest tariff with which they favoured their countrymen immediately after the repeal of the glass duties, only demanded seventy-five pounds for the same quantity; or, supposing that the squares were not more than 40 inches long, they would then have vouchsafed to accept the small sum of thirty pounds. We do not say that a fall in the price of glass to 2d. per foot is to be expected immediately, or that a reduction of prices to such an amount could at present be accomplished by the English glass-trade; but the difference between what they have done, and could have done, and must do, is sufficiently significant of the course which those who have money to spend on glass should steadily pursue.—*Gardeners' Chronicle.*

Wallasey Docks.—On Saturday last, about half-past five o'clock, the first stone of the Wallasey Docks, on the north side of the pool, was laid by Mr. Rendall, the engineer of the docks, on the Seacombe beach, and within about 20 yards of the Seacombe ferry. Between 200 and 300 of the inhabitants of Seacombe were present.

Tenders.

For three third-rate houses to be erected for the Corporation of the Philanthropic Society, Southwork: Messrs. Jarland and Christopher, architects.

M. Heyson	£1,942
W. Nicholson	1,850
Evans and Son	1,829

For building eight houses and hotel in the new line of Oxford-street: Edward Gotto, Esq., architect.

Howard	£30,220
Burtenshaw	30,216
Cooper and Davis	29,980
J. and T. Ward	29,885
Trego	29,540
Dean	29,327
Burton and Sons	26,673

For building eight houses, Lewisham-road: Mr. W. Smith, architect.

Marsham	£5,247
Wade	4,909
R. and D. Young	4,795
Howard	4,777
Goodwin	4,580
Hill	4,474
Rider and Son	4,344
Taylor	4,245

For building two villas at Highbury, under John Barnett, Esq., architect and surveyor, of 68, Chancery-lane.

Lock and Nesham	£4,533
Piper	4,488
Pierce and Co.	4,488
Ashley	4,199
Haines and Co.	4,116
King and Co.	3,912
Glenn	3,890
Grimsdell	3,873
Trego	3,800

NOTICES OF CONTRACTS.

[We are compelled by the interference of the Stamp Office to omit the names of the parties to whom tenders, &c., are to be addressed. For the convenience of our readers, however, they are entered in a book, and may be seen on application at the office of "The Builder," 2, York-street, Covent-garden.]

For Lighting the town of Woodbridge in Suffolk with Gas.

For the erection of three additional wards at the Bedminster Union Workhouse, situate at Long Ashton.

For the executing the skeleton of Glenorthy Castle, County of Limerick, Ireland.

For supplying her Majesty's several Dockyards with Dantzic Oak, Timberstuff, and Plank.

For Building a Sewer in Fleet-street, from Temple-bar to Water-lane.

For Lighting the Parish of St. Mary, Rotherhithe, with the Essential Oil of Tar, for One Year, from the 24th of August next.

For Building a New Union Workhouse, to contain 1180 Persons, for the Guardians of the Clifton Union.

For the complete restoration of two Windows on the south side of St. Thomas's Church, Salisbury; also, for Cleaning and Whitewashing the interior of the same Church.

For certain alterations at the Workhouse of St. Mary's Parish, Islington.

For the execution of Works on the Leeds and Thirsk Railway.

For Coupled Locomotive Engine and four-wheeled Tender, to contain 700 gallons, for the Manchester and Birmingham Railway Company.

For the execution of that portion of the Newcastle and Berwick Railway, extending from the Newcastle and North Shields Railway to Netherton, being a distance of about 12¼ miles.

For the execution of several lengths of Earthwork on the Aberdeen Railway. There are 5 separate Contracts, varying in lengths from 3¼ miles to 4¾ miles.

For the execution of the works on the Nottingham and Lincoln Railway, in two parts; 1 from Nottingham to Newark, being a distance of 17¼ miles. 2 from Newark to Lincoln, being a distance of 15¾ miles.

For the erection of Stone Booking-Offices for the Sheffield and Manchester Railway Company.

For Lighting with Gas part of the Parish of St. Mary, Whitechapel, and also for the repair, &c., of the Service Pipes, Lamps, and Fittings.

For the execution of certain Repairs, &c., proposed to be done at the Parish Chapel of St. Luke's, Chelsea.

For the construction of the entire Line of Railway through the County of Anglesea, for the Chester and Holyhead Railway Company. It is divided into four separate Contracts, being respectively in length 5 miles and 28 chains, 5 miles and 26 chains, 7 miles and 55 chains, and 3 miles and 60 chains.

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